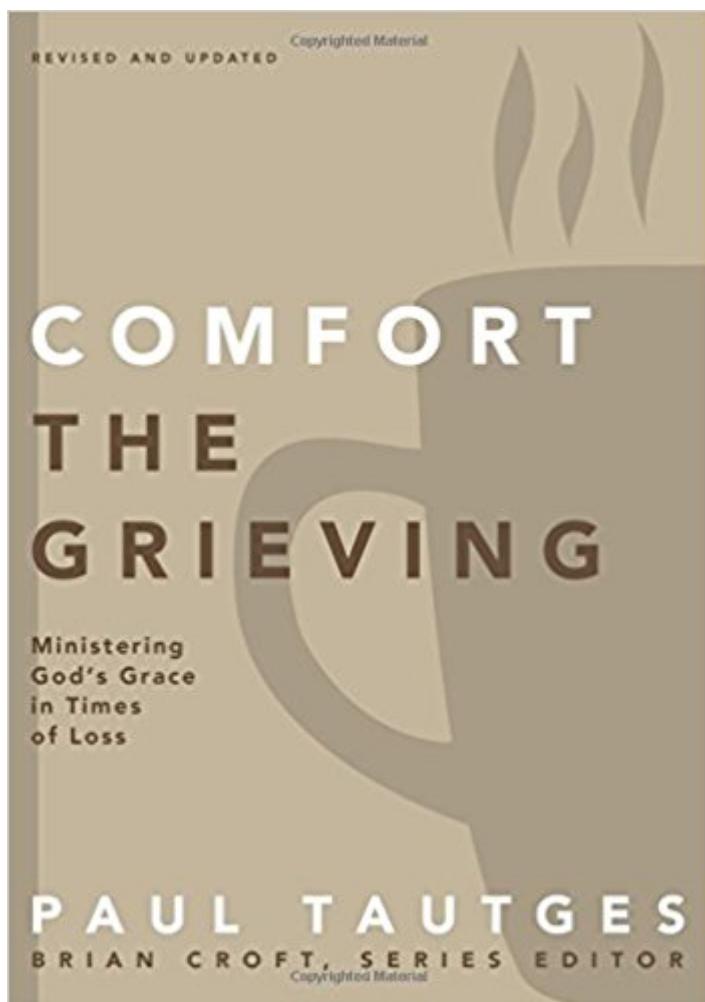


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# Comfort The Grieving: Ministering God's Grace In Times Of Loss (Practical Shepherding Series)



## **Synopsis**

Until the end of time, when the curse of sin is finally removed, suffering will be a large part of the human experience and a large part of that suffering will be walking through the painful reality of death. 'Death,' writes Paul Tautges, 'provides a natural opportunity not only for ministry to others, but also for personal growth in ministers.' Those who shepherd others through the pain and loss that accompanies death should seek to offer wise and biblical counsel on these precious and painful occasions. This book is a treasure chest of pastoral theology that will equip you to reach out to those who grieve with the Christ-centered comfort of God rooted in the gospel. The theological foundation espoused here, as well as the numerous practical helps that are included, will help any servant of the Lord to point the hearts and minds of the bereaved to the 'man of sorrows' who is 'acquainted with grief' (Isaiah 53:3). The Practical Shepherding series of booklets provides pastors and ministry leaders with advice and practical help to do the work of pastoral ministry in a local church. In Comfort Those Who Grieve, experienced pastor Paul Tautges offers readers a guide to comforting those dealing with death through the hope of the gospel.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Paul Tautges serves as senior pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in suburban Cleveland, Ohio. Previously, he served as pastor of Immanuel Bible Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin for 22 years. Paul has authored eight books and is a teaching fellow for the Association of Certified Biblical

Counselors (ACBC). He and his wife, Karen, are the parents of ten children. Paul blogs regularly at [Counseling One Another](#). Brian Croft is Senior Pastor of Auburndale Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Brian is the founder of Practical Shepherding, a non-profit organization committed to equipping pastors all over the world in the practical matters of pastoral ministry.

This book has very helpful information, practical suggestions, and great guidelines for how to help grieving members of the church body. It's an easy read, down to earth presentation of how the gospel impacts our losses.

There is much to mourn for in this world and much grief to be endured. This creates ample opportunities for children of God to love, help, comfort, and hurt with those who are suffering. Being able to minister properly through these situations will benefit all involved. *Comfort the Grieving* by Paul Tautges is a wonderful resource. It is focused on the word of God and immensely practical. While it is designed for pastors, this is a volume that will equip and encourage all believers as we fulfill our Christian obligation to "mourn with those who mourn." This short volume is divided into sections covering pastoral care and preaching. Tautges encourages the reader that care for the grieving does not conclude at the memorial service and offers a helpful guide on how to make sure that those needing continued care will receive it. He also encourages pastors, and all Christians, to take up the art of letter writing as a means of offering care and then proceeds with some practical, "how-to" advice. While Tautges is clear those grieving need personal, one-on-one care, he does not minimize the need of care from the pulpit. He offers a few sample sermons from funerals to offer examples of Christ-centered, sensitive, evangelistic messages to share in corporate times of grieving. This is a volume that will help many to love and care for those around them who are hurting. It is short and accessible and I see no reason that it should not be read by many. I received a review copy of this book from the publisher.

Paul has developed much needed thought and help in meeting the real needs of those grieving for a host of situations such as accidents, cancer, still born, miscarriages, death etc. Many, even in ministry, are at a loss of just what to say and not say. Paul brings a great help to ministers and family in meeting the spiritual needs of those who are grieving a loss. I would highly recommend this volume and the companion volumes as a great help to your practical library. By Pastor Darrell of Grace Covenant Church and Director of Biblical Counseling Training Center of Az. Gilbert, Az.

Comfort the Grieving: Ministering God's Grace in Times of Loss (Practical Shepherding Series) I love the way in which the author so sensitively and gently writes on the topic of grief; the heart of a pastor pulsates in the text of this short book as he directs us and carers with clear, wise, practical and biblical counsel with respect to those who have lost a loved one. People in pastoral ministry, as well as hospital chaplains, people working as nursing home caregivers, and hospice workers would do well to pay attention to the points made in this small book. The case studies given earth the book in reality. As I read this, I was struck by just how wide the application of the gospel of God's love and care is in the damaged world in which we live. Divided into clear sections, the book is very easy to navigate, and there is something to help in most ministry situations, whether the death of an infant, appropriate use of music, finding comfort in the thought of eternal life, and many other elements. I warmly commend this book to a readership that will benefit considerably from its use.

An old friend called me out of the blue recently. It was obvious that he was very distraught, weeping over the phone. His brother-in-law had just died unexpectedly, leaving his sister with six children still at home, and he was at a loss as to how to minister comfort to her. Thankfully I had this book by Paul Tautges, which helped me to direct him. I then gave him his own copy the next day and he read it that same night (before the funeral) with great profit. I believe this book lives up to its title: "Comfort Those Who Grieve: Ministering God's Grace in Times of Loss." Pastor Tautges tenderly puts his arm around the reader and with genuine compassion points us to the cross for hope. It is saturated with God's Word and oozes tenderheartedness. There is even a funeral meditation on the death of an infant. I found the "Sample Memorial Services" to be very practical and helpful too. So whether you are seeking to comfort those in sorrow, or find guidance in your own personal loss, this book covers all the bases - and then some. We keep it stocked in our church book room.

Comfort the Grieving is a brief and practical book for pastors and leaders in the church who are seeking to help those who are grieving. Though not exhaustive, Comfort the Grieving provides a great introduction to grief and mourning from a biblical prospective. Furthermore, there are many practical examples of ways to support those who are grieving (such as letter writing, having an long term plan for care and examples of sermons preached at memorial services). Tautges correctly states, "Christ-centered comfort is the only true comfort. Any comfort we give to people that lies outside the hope of the gospel is temporary at best and deceptive at worst" (15). Tautges gives great Christ-centered advice to pastors and church leaders who desire to care for those in their

congregations. This book is highly recommended.

As a Pastor this book has been very helpful personally to me. One of the most difficult challenges of pastoral ministry is coming alongside those who are grieving and attempting to give them comfort. I think this book should be read by everyone in ministry and anyone who is thinking entering into pastoral ministry. Tautges book is one I will refer to again and again in my ministry. I received a digital review copy from the publisher.

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